THE CUCKOO.

THE NEWS AND GOSSIP OF THE DAY.

VOL. I.—No. 17. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1881. ONE PENNY.

COLLINSON

AND

LOCK'S

FURNITURE AND WOODWORK,

INEXPENSIVE

AND

ORIGINAL IN DESIGN.

109, FLEET-STREET, E.C.

TIME for APRIL. Edited by EDMUND YATES. A Magazine of Interesting and Amusing Literature. One shilling.

TIME for APRIL. Trips with Rocky Mountain Trappers, A Sketch of Irish Character, Mine Ease in Mine Inn, Furniture, Fixtures, and the Fine Arts.

TIME for APRIL. Some April Birds (with Double-page Illustration). Contributions by Dutton Cook, Violet Fane, Major Arthur Griffiths, S. K. Phillips, B. H. Buxton, and many others.

TIME for APRIL. Novels, Poems, Pictures, Essays.—1, York-street, Covent-garden, and all Bookstalls.

Now ready, 2nd Edition, cloth gilt, 1s., by post 1s. 2d.

THE

LETTER-WRITER'S VADE MECUM and DICTIONARY SUPPLEMENT.

The Indispensable Companion of all engaged in Correspondence. It contains Hundreds of Word-forms not to be found in the ordinary Dictionary, a complete List of the Participles of Verbs, Homonyms, Synonyms, and Foreign Words and Phrases in every-day use. It should always be at hand to solve those doubts as to the correct spelling of words which occur at times to most Letter-writers.

London: C. W. DEACON & CO., 455, Strand, W.C.

NOTICE TO INVENTORS.

JULIUS HALL, Patent Agent, Obtains LETTERS PATENT and REGISTRATION OF DESIGN, 90, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

Now ready, price 1s. (post-free, 14 Stamps), the SIXTH EDITION of

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS TO INVENTORS, containing CAUTION TO ALL INVENTORS; a Chapter on TRADE MARKS; a Chapter on METHOD OF OBTAINING LETTERS PATENT; and a Chapter containing 130 PRACTICAL MECHANICAL MOVEMENTS, with Explanation of each Diagram.

JULIUS HALL, 90, Chancery Lane.

THE CLAY CROSS COMPANY'S

CELEBRATED COAL.

This day's prices—Best 24s.; Seconds, 22s.

Orders to Chief Office—

12, BURWOOD PLACE, W.

One of the Sights and one of the Comforts of London.

THE

HOLBORN RESTAURANT,

218, HIGH HOLBORN.

THE FAMOUS TABLE D'HOTE DINNER in the GRAND SALON, the PRINCE'S SALON, and the DUKE'S SALON, at Separate Tables every Evening. 5.30 to 8.30.

SOUPS; TWO KINDS OF FISH; ENTREES; JOINTS; SWEETS; ICES; CHEESE, in variety; SALAD, &c. 3s. 6d.

A SELECTION OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC OF A REFINED CHARACTER IS PERFORMED BY A COMPLETE ORCHESTRA DURING DINNER.

DINNERS AND LUNCHEONS FROM DAILY BILL OF FARE.

HENRY RUSSELL. An EDITION of the CANTATAS and SONGS of HENRY RUSSELL, Specially Revised by the Eminent Composer will shortly be issued.

CRAMER & CO., 201, Regent-street.

FREDERIC T. BAKER,

MANUFACTURER.

MODIFIED CHOKE GUNS,

12, 16, 20 Bore,

With all the latest Improvements.

MARTINI-HENRY ROOK and RABBIT RIFLES,

With Stop to Holt Lock, accurately sighted, £5.

AIR GUNS, 35s. AIR PISTOLS, 17s. 6d.

REVOLVERS ON ALL THE BEST SYSTEMS,

From 10s. 6d. to 80s.

88, FLEET STREET.

"Cleanse the Blood."

OLD DR. JACOB TOWNSEND'S SARSAPARILLA.

Highly recommended for all kinds of Blood and Skin Diseases, Pimples, Eruptions, &c. The best Spring and Autumn Medicine.

SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

CAUTION.—GET THE RED AND BLUE WRAPPER, WITH THE DOCTOR'S HEAD IN THE CENTRE. No other is genuine. In bottles, 2s. 6d., 4s. 6d., and 11s.—Sold by all Druggists.

BORWICK'S For BREAD, PASTRY AND PUDDINGS.

BAKING

FOUR GOLD MEDALS. POWDER.

MINTON'S CHINA.

PRICES as at the MANUFACTORY.

SPECIALITIES in TABLE DECORATIONS.

ALL the NEWEST PATTERNS in COMMON and BEST.

DINNER and DESSERT SERVICES.

BREAKFAST and TEA SERVICES.

TOILET SERVICES.

PLAIN ENGRAVED and CUT GLASS SERVICES.

Every Description and Price.

W. P. & G. PHILLIPS,

ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS IN POTTERY AND PORCELAIN,

357 358, & 359, OXFORD ST., LONDON, W.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY (Limited). No. 7, Bank-buildings, Lothbury, E.C.

General Accidents. Railway Accidents. | Personal Injuries. Death by Accidents.

C. HARDING, Manager.

HOME FOR LITTLE BOYS,

Near Farningham, Kent.

SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY.

On THURSDAY NEXT, March 31, an EVENING ASSEMBLY will be held in EXETER HALL, when a Choir of 500, including the Boys of the Home, will sing a selection of Music. The Military Band of the Home will also play, and short Addresses will be given. The Chair will be taken at half-past six by the Earl of ABERDEEN.

Admission Free by Tickets only to be had of the principal Booksellers, and at the Offices of the Home. A few Special Reserved Seats One Shilling each. These can only be secured at the Offices of the Home.

A. O. CHARLES, Secretary.

Offices, Ludgate-circus, E.C.

ROYAL HOSPITAL for INCURABLES, West-hill, Putney-heath.

Patron—H.R.H. the Prince of WALES, K.G., &c.

Treasurer—John Derby Allcroft, Esq., F.R.A.S.

There are 188 inmates of the Hospital.

There are 431 pensioners of £20 a-year.

There are upwards of 150 Candidates for Election.

The Hospital has room for only six additional inmates.

The new wing, in course of erection, will be completed by the end of the present year.

DONATIONS to the General Fund and to the Building Fund are earnestly and respectfully solicited. The two funds, although distinct, confer equal rights of voting—viz., one life vote for each £5 5s.

A Donation of £525 for the Building Fund gives also the privilege of naming a ward in perpetuity.

A Donation of £105 entitles the donor to name a bed in perpetuity.

Annual Subscriptions of half a guinea and upwards entitle to votes.

Money orders payable to the Secretary at 106, Queen Victoria-street.

"A Strange Holiday," by Zeta, sent post free on application. FREDERIC ANDREW, Secretary.

Office, 105, Queen Victoria-street, London.

ROYAL ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL (Incorporated by Royal Charter), for the treatment of club foot, spinal and other deformities, 315, Oxford-street. Supported by voluntary contributions. Numbers of patients benefited, 58,009; now under treatment, 2,000. £10 10s. constitutes a life governor; £5 5s. a governor for ten years; £1 1s. annually an annual governor, each entitled to recommend patients. CONTRIBUTIONS thankfully received by Messrs. Martin and Co., 68, Lombard-street; and by Mr. Benjamin Maskell, Secretary, at the Hospital.

AMUSEMENTS.

DRURY LANE.—THE NATIONAL THEATRE.—AUGUSTUS HARRIS, Lessee and Manager. THE WORLD, pronounced by the *Times* Newspaper, in its review of the theatrical year, to be most undoubtedly the greatest success of the year. By Augustus Harris, William Rignold, Macklin, Gibson, Huntly, Boleyn, Lilly, Gresham, Ridley, and Harry Jackson; Misses Fanny Josephs, Fanny Brough, Maude De Vere, M'Namara, and Louisa Payne.

DRURY LANE.—THE STORES, at 7.30. Director of the Stores, Mr. Walter Pelham; Miss Kathleen Corri, Mr. Douglas Cox, Mr. De Lange, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Boughton, Mr. Buccalessi, Mr. Weldon.

LYCEUM.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. HENRY IRVING.—THE CUP.—THE CORSICAN BROTHERS.—Alfred Tennyson's Tragedy, THE CUP, TO NIGHT, at a Quarter to Eight. Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Irving, Mr. Terriss. THE CORSICAN BROTHERS at Half-past Nine. Mr. Irving. Box Office (Mr. Hurst) open 10 to 5. Seats booked by Letter or Telegram.

THE BELLE'S STRATAGEM, April 16. This Theatre will be closed in Passion Week, until Saturday, April 16, when will be presented Mr. Cowley's Comedy, THE BELLE'S STRATAGEM. Doricourt, Mr. Irving; Letitia Hardy, Miss Ellen Terry; Miss Sophie Young, Mr. Howe, Mr. Terriss, Mr. Pinero, Mr. Elwood, &c. &c. Preceded by Alfred Tennyson's Tragedy, THE CUP. Seats can now be booked.—LYCEUM.

ADELPHI THEATRE.—Managers, Messrs. A. and S. GATTI.—THIS EVENING, at 8, MICHAEL STROGOFF. Mr. C. Warner, Mr. H. J. Byron, and Mrs. Hermann Vezin; Messrs. J. Fernandez, Irish, Rosier, Warren, Russell, Palmer, Proctor; Mesdames Bernard-Beere and Gerard. At 7.15, BARNEY THE BARON. Mr. Shiel Barry, Miss Clara Jecks.

OLYMPIC.—JENNIE LEE.—JO.—FAREWELL PERFORMANCES.—THIS EVENING, at 8.30. Miss JENNIE LEE; Mesdames Dolores Drummond, M. Leighton, F. Smithers, C. Steele, F. Leyton, C. Humphreys, &c.; Mr. J. P. Burnett; Messrs. Howell, Dolby, Compton, Andrews, Leigh, Crisp, &c. Preceded, at 7.30, by FAMILY JARS. Misses Smithers and Leyton. Messrs. Compton, Crisp, Grahame. Box Office open 10 till 5. No Booking Fees. Carriages 10.45.—General Manager, Mr. J. H. COBBE.—OLYMPIC.

GAIETY THEATRE, Strand.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. JOHN HOLLINGSHEAD.—7.0, OPERETTA. 7.20, LITTLE MOTHER: Miss L. Venne, &c. 8.30, FORTY THIEVES (Burlesque) in 3 Acts. Misses Farren, Vaughan, Gilchrist, Broughton, Gilbert, Hewett; Terry, Royce, Squire, Dallas, Two Macs, and Chorus.

GLOBE.—The THEATRE will REOPEN on SATURDAY, the 16th April, with an entirely new Opera Comique, in Three Acts, by Offenbach, entitled MARGOT. First Time in this country. Produced under the immediate direction of Mr. H. B. Farnie, supported by a strongly augmented Company and elaborate Mise-en-Scene. Full particulars will shortly be announced.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—SPECIAL NOTICE.—On SATURDAY, April 2nd, will be produced an entirely New and Original Romantic Spectacular Drama of Sensational Interest, entitled, BRANDED, written by Richard Lee.

BRANDED.—On SATURDAY NEXT, April 2, at 7.45, will be produced an entirely New and Original Romantic Spectacular Drama of sensational interest, entitled BRANDED, written by Richard Lee. New and realistic Scenery by Charles Brooke. New Overture and incidental Music by Michael Connelly. New Military Costumes direct from the Army Contractors, Paris. The horses supplied by Mr. George Sanger. Preceded at 7.0 by Farce, THE INTRIGUE.—SATURDAY NEXT, April 2. Box-office open daily.—ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE. BRANDED.—Messrs. HENRY NEVILLE, Redmund, F. Archer, J. Beauchamp, F. Charles, C. Sidney, Allen Thomas, Hewitt, Escourt, Evens, Gardiner, Greville, W. Avondale, Chamberlain, Stirling, &c.; Misses Caroline Hill, Maud Milton, Katie Barry, &c.; Mrs. Huntley and Mrs. Lyons. The Drama produced under the direction of Mr. Harry Jackson.—SATURDAY NEXT, April 2.—ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

OPERA COMIQUE.—LAST FOUR NIGHTS of THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE in consequence of the preparations for the production at Easter of a NEW ÆSTHETIC OPERA by Messrs. W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. D'OYLY CARTE.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. WILSON BARRETT.—TO-NIGHT, at 8, ROMEO AND JULIET. At 7, TWO OLD BOYS. Messrs. Wilson Barrett, J. Ryder, Forbes-Robertson, Clifford Cooper, Price, Norman Forbes, Norman, Darley, &c., and G. W. Anson; Mesdames Helena Modjeska, Emery, Giffard, Garnier, Clifford, &c., and E. G. Le Thiere. Doors open at 6.45, commence at 7. "Romeo and Juliet," at 8. Carriages at 11. Box Office daily from 11 to 5. No Fees. Morning Performance of ROMEO AND JULIET, Saturday, April 2, at 2 p.m.—Acting Manager, Mr. H. Herman.

PRINCE of WALES'S ROYAL THEATRE. Sole Lessee, and Manager, Mr. EDGAR BRUCE.—TO-NIGHT, at 8.40, a New Comedy, in Three Acts, called THE COLONEL, by F. C. Burnand. Preceded, at 7.50, by IN HONOUR BOUND, by Sydney Grundy. Mr. Coghlan, Mr. Flockton, Mr. W. Herbert, Mr. Eric Bayley, Mr. Rowland Buckstone, and Mr. Edgar Bruce; Miss Amy Roselle, Miss Myra Holme, Miss C. Grahame, Miss Eva Sothern, Mrs. Leigh Murray, &c. Doors open at 7.30; commence at 7.50. Box Office open daily, from Eleven to Five.—THE COLONEL. MATINEES, THIS DAY, and SATURDAY, April 2. Doors open at 2, commence at 2.30. An early application for seats is necessary.

ROYALTY.—Manageress, KATE LAWLER.—Doors open at 6.30. THE SECRET, 6.45. 'H. J. Byron's highly-successful Comic Drama, BOW BELLS, at 7.30; to conclude, at 9.30, with the great Royalty Burlesque, DON JUAN JUNIOR, now played for over 130 nights. Pronounced by the Press to be an overwhelming triumph. Kate Lawler, Harriet Coveney, Emma Ritta, Ruth Francis, Annie Lawler, Florence Lavender, Connie Carlin, and Elise Ward; Edward Eighton, Seymour Dallas, T. P. Haynes, Frank Wyatt, Herbert Kelcey, H. Martell, and Frank Cooper. Musical Director, Herr Max Schroter; Secretary and Treasurer, Frank Rothsay; Acting and General Business Manager for Kate Lawler, Cecil Raleigh.

STRAND THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. SWANBOROUGH.—THIS EVENING, at 8, a New and Original Opera Comique, in Three Acts, entitled OLIVETTE, adapted from the French of Chivot and Duru. Written and produced by H. B. Farnie. Preceded, at 7.30, by A SUMMER CLOUD. The Entertainment supported by a Powerful Company. Doors open at 7. Box Office open daily.—MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.0.

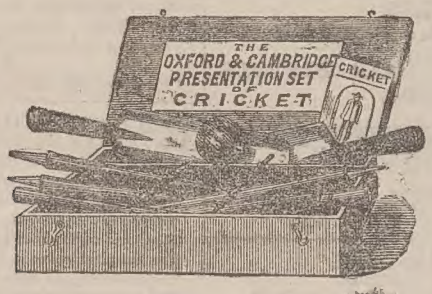
FOLLY.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. L. TOOLE. TO-NIGHT, at 7.30, HESTER'S MYSTERY. At 8.15, 345th Time, a New and Original Comedy, in Three Acts, by Henry J. Byron, called THE UPPER CRUST. Barnaby Doublechick, Mr. J. L. Toole. At 10.15, ICI ON PARLE FRANCAIS. Mr. J. L. Toole. Box Office open 10 till 5.—Prices: 1s. to £3 3s. No Free List. No Fees for Booking. Doors open at 7.—MORNING PERFORMANCE NEXT SATURDAY, at Two. THE UPPER CRUST and BARDELL v. PICKWICK. Doors open 1.30. Toole in Two Pieces.

NEW SADLER'S WELLS.—Miss BATEMAN as MARY WARNER for TWO WEEKS ONLY. TO-NIGHT, at 8, Tom Taylor's Popular Play, MARY WARNER. Miss Bateman, Messrs. E. H. Brooke, E. Lyons, A. Redwood, R. Lyons, B. Leslie, G. Canninge, &c.; Mrs. Huntley and Miss Compton. Prices from 6d. to 7s. 6d. Doors open at 6.30. Farce at 7. Box Office open 11 to 5.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—TO-NIGHT, at 8.0 o'clock, will be produced JEANNE, JEANNETTE, AND JEANNETON, a New Comic Opera, in a Prologue and Three Acts, by MM. Clairville and Delacour. Music by P. Lacome. The English Libretto by R. Reece. Characters by Mesdames Loseby, St. Quinten, Alice May, Ivanova, Jamieson, Martino; Messrs. W. H. Woodfield, W. S. Penley, Kelleher, Power, Collini, Sweetman, and Fred Leslie.—TO-NIGHT. In Act II. is introduced a New Grand Mythological Ballet, entitled ENDYMION (Music by G. Jacobi): Danseuses, Mdlles. Pertoldi, Gillert, Rosa, and Palladino, supported by the entire Corps de Ballet.

MR. and MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT. St. George's Hall, Langham-place.—THE TURQUOISE RING, OUR INSTITUTE, and ALL AT SEA. Every Evening (except Thursday and Saturday) at 8. Every Thursday and Saturday at 3. Admission, 1s. and 2s.; stalls, 3s. and 5s.

IN AND OUT DOOR GAMES AGENCY.



NO. 1.—A DOUBLE SET of CRICKET in case complete, containing two polished bats, six polished stumps and bails, one double-seamed match ball. Price 10s. 6d.

NO. 2.—Ditto MATCH BATS, full-sized stumps, bails, and highly recommended. Price 21s.

NO. 3.—Ditto CANED-SPLICED BATS, best stumps (brass heads), iron shod, and bails, best match ball, and all of the best finish. Price 31s. 6d.

ORDERS, accompanied by Post-office Orders, payable to EDWARD LANE, will be despatched by return.

ILLUSTRATED LIST of GAMES sent post free on receipt of two stamps. Inventors of games are invited to correspond.

THE IN AND OUT DOOR GAMES AGENCY, 10, PATERNOSTER-SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

MAPLE & CO.

ARE NOW OFFERING

THIRTY MILES OF

BEST BRUSSELS

CARPETS at 3s. 9d. per yard.

THESE GOODS, by some of the First Manufacturers, are of superior quality, the designs and colourings new and artistic. They are 1s. per yard under the usual price asked at the West End for the same quality.

MAPLE & CO.,

TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, LONDON.

21, SUFFOLK STREET, PALL MALL.

FURNISHED APARTMENTS in a WELL-APPOINTED HOUSE. Excellent cooking; man servant; moderate terms. Particulars of Housekeeper.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—All Advertisements intended for insertion in the "CUCKOO" should reach the ADVERTISEMENT OFFICE, 86, FLEET STREET, E.C., by the EVENING before the DAY intended for their appearance.

H. FREEMAN.

THE CUCKOO

News and Gossip of the day.

VOL. I.—No 17. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1881. ONE PENNY.

MANAGER'S NOTICE.

Can be had of all Newsvendors, and at all Railway Stations.

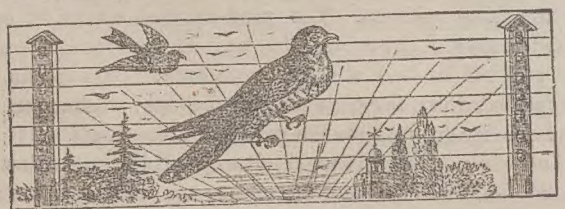
THE CUCKOO can be sent by book post at the minimum postal rate of ONE HALFPENNY.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.
(INCLUDING POSTAGE, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.)

Three Months	0 9 9
Six Months	0 19 6
Twelve Months	1 19 0

Post-Office Orders should be sent to Mr. FREDERICK EVANS, at 1, York Street, Covent Garden, W.C.; and made payable at the General Post-Office, London, E.C. Cheques to be crossed Ransom, Bouverie, & Co., 1, Pall Mall East.

N. V. B.—*Editor's Office (to which all literary contributions for* THE CUCKOO *should be addressed), 97, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. Advertisers will please address H. Freeman, 86, Fleet Street, E.C. Publishing Office, 1, York Street, Covent Garden, W.C.*



News from Abroad.

Greek fire does not ignite so briskly, nowadays, as it used to when we were younger. As a boy, I thought it rather an inflammable firework.

But the Turks are waking up. Prevesa has been provisioned, and a plan of defence agreed upon.

Our correspondent writes:—"Greece has only one idea as to the conduct of the war, should it break out, and it is thoroughly Greek. She intends, if possible, to begin the war with a success, no matter how slight, and then to remain on the defensive till the sympathy of Europe is evoked A successful dash at Prevesa before the Turks could come up in force would suit the Greeks exactly. Athens, though safe enough, would seem sufficiently threatened to attract the sympathy of several of the Powers; while the spectacle of the unspeakable one overrunning the undefended kingdom would increase the anti-Turk feeling."

By "safe" our correspondent means that he considers Thermopylæ on the land side, and the torpedos sown along the coasts on the other, a sufficient security against Turkish assault.

Sir Frederick Roberts returns by the *Warwick Castle*, which sails from the Cape on the 7th.

Mr. Childers, we suppose, must have his practical joke out. But are not Ministers just a trifle sanguine about the success of their peace?

When there are no troops worth mentioning left in Natal, who is to assert Her Majesty's what-do-you-call-it over the Boers?

If anything were needed to incense the nation or to shame it, with regard to the peace patched up with the Boers, it would be the news of this morning, that all the time that we were negotiating with the Dutch slave traders, our gallant soldiers were fighting their hardest "for Queen and honour."

Capt. Winsloe, after losing more than half his garrison, and being reduced to absolute want, has surrendered Potchefstroom with the honours of war. Standerton and Wakkerstroom have held out, however, to the last, and now that peace has set them free our brave fellows can think of nothing but the shameful reason for their release. They would rather, they say, have fought on than have yielded under such infamous circumstances.

In the capital of Natal, a Crown Colony, Her Majesty's English subjects, all loyal men and true, have trailed the national ensign through the mud of the streets, and reversed the Union Jack on the market-place flagstaff. We may expect much worse than this, though, for mutiny among our troops in Natal would certainly not be extraordinary.

We presume the Boers would then be called in to suppress it!

An American firm the other day attempted to place some posters on the Cleopatra's Needle in New York. The attempt was promptly repulsed.

Chicago refuses to naturalise the Chinaman, because he is neither black nor white. This puzzles the heathen one immeasurably, for, as he says, being neither American nor Chinaman, he does not know where to have himself at all.

Her Majesty the Empress of Austria arrived in Paris yesterday morning, and will remain there until to-morrow.

General Skobeleff is wanted by Russia nearer home than Turcomanland. He has been recalled by the Czar, on the pretext of having committed Russia to an aggressive policy

---

General Grant's acceptance of the Presidency of a Mexican railway company will surprise no one who is acquainted with his pecuniary circumstances. He is absolutely without sufficient resources, and, to use his own words, is "obliged to go to work for his living." He went to work for his living before the American war as a rail splitter and tanner, and did not succeed much in either.

Since the failure to secure his renomination at Chicago, last year, he has had proposals from innumerable corporations which have coveted the distinction of his name at the head of their list of officers; but his scrupulous determination to connect himself only with unblemished and unimpeachable enterprises has hitherto prevented him from accepting any of these. Not long ago, he withdrew from a company he had seriously intended joining, which offered him an annual salary of £9,000, together with property that he himself regarded as a permanent fortune, solely because of an attempt to speculate in shares on the strength of his name. It may be taken for granted that the Mexican Southern Railway is a flawless concern in the estimation, at least, of its new President.

Telegrams announce that Commodore Shufeldt, of the United States Navy, has been appointed Naval Attaché to the American Legation in China.

This is a very unusual proceeding for the United States Government, naval and military appointments to diplomatic stations being almost unprecedented under the American system.

The reason for this departure from ordinary custom may be found in the growing attention paid by America to its Asiatic connections. The old methods of intercourse, it would appear, are to be abandoned, in favour of a plan of mutual consideration and good fellowship, from which important results are ultimately expected. It is not supposed that the existing supremacy of English influence will be speedily set aside, but the irritation of nations like China and Japan under the coercion and oppression they have long been subjected to is making itself strongly apparent, and the Americans are the first to learn the lesson of what the future has in store.

Commodore Shufeldt's appointment has, however, a double purpose; he is not only to add to the consequence of the legation at Pekin, but is also to make advances toward the establishment of diplomatic and commercial relations between Corea and the United States.

A French girl named Amélie Thiollet has been awarded eighteen months' imprisonment for a "practical joke." Her affianced, who was a fellow-servant with this virago of eighteen, had married another; whereupon Amélie one morning went up to Miraillet's bedroom, and, while he was asleep, snipped off one of his ears.

News from the Country.

In the light of recent events, it is not desirable, Mr. Dillon, to draw parallels between Irish peasantry and Russian serfs.

You have always asserted that you never mean any harm by what you say. Perhaps not; but why not avoid "the appearance of evil"?

Lieut. Percy Duke Coleridge, R.M.L.I., nephew of Lord Coleridge, met his death at Plymouth on Monday, under very painful circumstances. During the afternoon he was engaged with Col. Graham inspecting the positions to be occupied at battalion drill yesterday. Whilst galloping across the brickfields his horse became restive and attempted thrice to throw him. Lieutenant Coleridge maintained his hold, however, until the gravel path was reached, when the horse, continuing fractious, crossed its fore legs and fell, throwing his rider upon the back of his head and crushing his body by rolling on him. Lieutenant Coleridge was removed in an unconscious state to the hopsital, where he died within four hours. He leaves a widow and two children.

Another great fire is reported, this time in Manchester, which has resulted in a large spinning mill being completely gutted, and it is said that £50,000 will scarcely cover the habilities of the insurance company.

Indian thieves are as dexterous as any, and more audacious than most. It is on record, for instance, that some pilferers once made away with a train of waggons laden with shell-lac, and not a trace of either the carts or their cattle, their drivers or their contents, was ever found! On another occasion one of these pickpockets made away with three able-bodied elephants.

In Glasgow, the other day, however, a local thief ventured upon a larceny of some dimensions. A coal merchant's carter was delivering coals, when a stranger accosted him to ask an address. The good-natured carter at once offered to go and show him the way if the stranger would only wait till he had shot the next sack. Saying this, he disappeared down the area with his burden, whereupon the other quickly got up into the cart and drove it off.

And what is more, he sold not only all the coals that remained, but the cart and the horse as well, and has not been caught!

Irishmen sometimes find happy descriptive terms. I am moved to this observation by reading an account of a brutal assault by a fellow rejoicing in the un-Irish name of Joseph, who had struck his brother a murderous blow on the head with a hammer. The monster is in custody on remand pending the issue, and the reporter has headed his account of the case, "Joseph sent into Bondage."

Another of those drivelling idiots who every now and then win a momentary notoriety by accusing themselves of murder has turned up in the person of one John Helan, eighty years of age, who affected to be one of the assassins of Lord Mountmorres. Being evidently crackbrained, the authorities have refrained from placing him under arrest.

One for you, my lord! The Bishop of Winchester, while conducting a confirmation service at Bournemouth, yesterday, preached a sermon in a very few words to a number of individuals who interrupted the service by walking about. Coming to a stop his lordship told them, in very plain terms, that "a church wasn't a place to walk about in. They should either sit still and be quiet, or walk out!" The rebuke had its effect.

The University of Durham may be expected soon to swell the supply of "sweet girl-graduates with their golden hair." At any rate, a memorial will be laid to-morrow before the Senate, by the Dean of Durham, praying for the admission of women to competition in the faculty of Arts and for Degrees, such as is already conceded to them in the Universities of Cambridge and London.

Some excitement has been recently stimulated among agriculturists of the West of England by the agitation of the question of amalgamating the Bath and West of England Society with the Royal Agricultural Society. The letters of "M.P." in the *Country Gentleman* have created quite a sensation among the old and staunch members of the western society, and the proposal is, at any rate, sure to meet with their most strenuous opposition. But some of the younger ones may not be so obstinately conservative, and there is little doubt that the question now mooted can in the end be answered in only one way. The R.A.S.E. will, of course, be only delighted to get rid of its rival.

Down west the "M.P." of the *Country Gentleman* is commonly suspected to be a young and promising nobleman, who was returned to Parliament last year by one of the divisions of a western or rather west-midland county. He is a prominent member of both societies.

The "Society for the Abolition of State Regulation of Vice" held a meeting last night at Bath. The deputation consisted of Mr. Dyer (from the Society for preventing the traffic in English girls), Miss Jesse Craigen, and Mrs. Steward. The Mayor took the chair, and the banqueting room of the Guildhall was filled with a respectable and mixed audience. A resolution was carried, with only two or three dissentients, in favour of repealing the C.D. Acts. The Rev. Prebendary Anderson, in a vigorous speech, said that he had a vote in three constituencies, and in future would vote for no candidate for Parliament who did not undertake to support the repeal. In answer to an appeal by him, about twenty or thirty hands were held up of electors present, who pledged themselves to the same action.

Bath shows some curious fluctuations in her mortality statistics. The death-rate for the week ending March 16th was 16·4 per thousand, as compared with 27·1 per thousand for the corresponding period of last year. The following week—that ending the 23rd inst.—the position of things was reversed. The ratio was 23·2 per thousand, as against 17·4 in the corresponding period. These are wide variations of which the public might possibly like to know the explanation.

The Second Somerset Light Infantry Militia will assemble this year for training at Taunton instead of at Bath, as usual. That most staid of towns—the "Queen (Dowager) of the West," has always had an aversion to "the military," unless they have retired into half-pay respectability. A year or two since its pious propriety was aroused by the proposal to make it a Brigade Depôt, and it went to considerable trouble to retain its civilian dulness unalloyed.

Agrarian outrages have, for the time being, ceased in Ireland, sanitary outrages would seem to have taken their place. One of the greatest of the scourges of Ireland is fever, which during the twelve months ending Sept. 30th, 1879, carried off 10,999 of her people. We cannot help wondering how many of these would have been Home Rulers if they had lived.

Mr. D'Esterre Parker, a member of the Cork Board of Guardians, lays the blame for much other state of things, on the Local Government Board, on account of its palpable neglect of some or one of the provisions of the Public Health Act, and he accuses the Board of being unmindful of using the ordinary means in their power of ascertaining the causes of the destructive malady, and of applying the remedies.

Amongst medical changes now in progress, may be mentioned the election of Dr. Chapman, President of the Irish Medical Association, to the post of Medical Officer to the Dublin Hospital of Incurables; and of Mr. C. W. Cathcart, M.D., F.R.C.S., as Lecturer on Anatomy in the Edinburgh Royal College of Surgeons. For the chair of pathology in the Edinburgh University, Dr. Greenfield, Lecturer on the same subject at St. Thomas's Hospital, is spoken of as the most likely candidate.

Another Tay Bridge is promised us, but upon lines materially different from those which marked the original structure. In the four navigable archways the spans will reach 245 feet, and the maximum height from high-water level 62 feet, as against 88 feet in the old bridge; the gradients, too, will be much gentler, and will be uniformly 1 in 180, which will be a great improvement upon the severe steepness of 1 in 74 which marked certain portions of the old bridge. Instead of nine non-navigable spans there wil now be eighteen, of no more than half the old dimensions, and the girders will no longer be over, but under, the rails. Concrete and brick piers will rise to a level of eight and a-half feet above high water, and from this to the under side of the girders the material will be wrought iron. Brick arching will terminate the bridge at each end, and along the whole length a substantial parapet will be erected. The old foundations will not be utilised, as they are liable to scour, and this defect will be guarded against in the new ones, by their being sunk twenty feet below the bed of the river. So much for the bridge—on paper.

News of Town.

Gossip of the Lobby.

Disclosures contained in each succeeding report from the Election Commissioners add additional force to the necessity for the Corrupt Practices Bill.

Yet we doubt very strongly whether it will become law this Session. We hear, indeed, that it will have to give way to the Ballot Act Continuance Bill, and that the general Ministerial arrangements are such that there is little hope of its passing during the present year.

Mr. Pender's baronetcy is little likely, says a correspondent, to prove correct; for did he not refuse that honour when offered to him in connection with the laying of the first Atlantic Cable?

A correspondent reminds us that in our allusion to sending a baboon into Parliament, in yesterday's Cuckoo, we apparently forgot the simian candidate who *was* once returned for the House of Commons: *videlicet*, Sir Orang Haut-Ton, of whose election many diverting particulars will be found in the "Melincourt," of Thomas Love Peacock.

The following interesting intelligence is furnished by the National Liberal Federation:—

The cost of elections in English boroughs of over 20,000 voters at the general election of 1880.

Total amount expended by

	£	s.	d.
Tories	95,872	16	6
Liberals	80,309	15	4

Average amount per Candidate:

Tory	2,905	4	9
Liberal	1,964	2	10

Supposing these figures to be correct, the National Liberal Federation has shown that upon these large boroughs the Tories spent £15,563 1s. 2d. more than the Liberals, or an average amount per candidate of £941 1s. 11d. more than the Liberals. We would recommend the Conservative Central Office to look into the matter, and to be careful not to spend the Central Fund so lavishly and unsuccessfully next time.

If unseated for Northampton, Mr. Bradlaugh will offer himself for re-election, and he will be re-elected—for Northampton.

Lord Frederick Cavendish can scarcely be termed an effective speaker. If he has in him the stuff of a Demosthenes, we must assume that he is now at the stage when the embryo orator fills his mouth with pebbles or plums. At any rate, so much of his lengthy reply to Mr. J. Hollond's inquiry about Civil Service Reform as was intelligible to those who heard it could scarcely be accepted as satisfactory.

The member for Brighton very naturally wanted to know what the administration of which Mr. Playfair was "a placeman" if not a nominee, was going to do with the scheme of administrative reform which bears his name. The "Playfair" Committee, it is true, came into corporal existence after the accession of the Tories to office, but it owed its origin avowedly to the pledges of their predecessors.

Tories gave Mr. Playfair every facility, and embodied his recommendations in an Order in Council. With the approval of the Liberals they threw open the public service of the Crown, and promised to carry out the reforms which Mr. Playfair had deemed necessary in the interests of both taxpayers and Civil servants.

In a way, and according to their light, it must be admitted that the Tories did follow the lines mapped out for them in the Playfair Scheme; but they showed considerable nervousness and delicacy in applying it without fear or favour when it was most needed; and their new-born energy had quite died out long before they left office. Lord Frederick Cavendish now tells us that the Liberal Government having shelved Mr. Playfair as Chairman of Committees, thinks very small potatoes of his scheme, describing it as "one amongst several" for the re-organisation of the service of the Crown, and that so far from having any desire to carry it out, or even to keep faith with those who have taken service on the strength of that Order in Council, they only propose to consider the request for re-construction which the heads of the various public departments may send in.

In other words, unless the most Conservative, self-satisfied, and costly ornaments of our administrative system do not cry aloud for "Happy Despatch," they will be allowed to go on like the other unreformed Corporations, of which we had last year such a pleasant catalogue, with this additional benefit—that they will be all the while merrily spending the taxpayer's money, and neglecting his work.

Will no one inquire what are the other several schemes of Civil Service Reform pigeon-holed at the Treasury, and whether Lord Frederick Cavendish's reply to Mr. Hollond is to be taken as the last words of the Liberal and reforming party? If this be so, we venture to say that the formation of a Civil Servants' Trade Union, which may at any moment throw all administrative work out of gear, is not far off.

The Services.

China possesses a "fleet" of gunboats, named alphabetically with the Greek letters. She has got as far as "Kappa" at present, and as yet has had no absurdity of nomenclature; but "Mu" and "Nu" as names of anything will be hardly less ridiculous than "Pi," "Phi," or "Psi."

A strong feeling exists in naval circles that the Board of Admiralty is not always faithful to its promises in the matter of shipbuilding. It is charged against the Board that it is given to the sin of drawing up an imposing list of ships intended to be built, which, in point of fact, are not intended to be built at all.

Indeed, it is roundly asserted that the only object with which they are put into the estimates is to beguile the House of Commons. New vessels of certain size and armament are estimated for, the estimate is presented to the House, the money is obtained and,—the ships are never built.

Sir E. J. Reed charges it against the Government, that last year the House voted money for three new ironclads, but that the vessels had not yet seen daylight, and are nowhere to be found in this year's programme. The Board of Admiralty should not conjure up phantoms.

"It is hoped that the Duke of Connaught will command a division or brigade" at Brighton. So says the *Volunteer Review*, and there could be no better authority.

The London Rifle Brigade will, we are also told, take the train as far as Hayward's Heath, and march thence to Brighton.

Lewes will not have much to say to the review this year, as, says the *Review*, "the whole force will rendezvous at Brighton."

Mr. Malcolm has resigned his seat at the Council of the National Rifle Association—so it is said.

Ridicule v. Flogging.—There can be little doubt but that the punishments substituted for flogging in the army are open to adverse criticism. But must all means for enforcing discipline be strong-handed ones?

Why not try painless punishments, such as making defaulters wear peculiar clothes or caps in barracks? Any-

thing which would make soldiers that got into trouble objects of ridicule instead of sympathy would prove, I believe, far more effective than any punitive measures. Most men will bear punishment well, if only to show their pluck, though the same individuals would flinch tremendously at chaff from their comrades.

Sir Charles Napier mentions in his book against flogging, how a friend of his stopped crime altogether in a regiment composed of the very worst of characters, to which he was appointed unexpectedly.

The corps was stationed at the time in Jersey, where spirits are but little dearer than beer in England; and although the lash was in full swing there, the crime of drunkenness kept rapidly increasing. In fact, the previous commanding officer had been removed by the Duke of York in consequence of the notoriously bad state of discipline that existed then in the regiment.

The new Colonel was quite against the lash, and on the first parade after he assumed command, he told the men so, adding that he believed their own good sense and feelings of honour would cause them to keep from drink, and thus prove themselves worthy of the trust he had reposed in them.

A man was drunk the same evening when parading for duty, and confined. The colonel, accompanied by the surgeon, went to the guard-room, where the doctor, having felt the prisoner's pulse, declared he was suffering from fever, and ordered the man at once to hospital. But the man was not allowed to walk; he was carefully carried to hospital in a blanket, to the immense amusement of all the garrison.

He was then put to bed, a blister applied to his back, and medicine given to him, and kept there for a week on very low diet, when he was discharged as cured. On the next parade, the colonel, calling him to the front, complimented him on his rapid recovery from the attack of fever, and fell him back in his place.

Three or four other cases of drunkenness occurred which were treated in the same way, and then crime may be said to have ceased in the corps. Offenders now met with no pity from their comrades, receiving plenty of ridicule instead. Formerly, by the aid of the lash, they had been elevated to the position of martyrs; but now, alas! they were only treated with derision and contempt by those who so lately before had expressed nothing but sympathy.

The cure was complete, and in less than three months the men of that regiment were as noted for their extraordinary good behaviour as they had previously been for the reverse.

An old punishment in the army for the crime of drunkenness was the "*whirligig*," a circular wooden-cage, with a chair in it, which revolved on its own axis. This, when set in motion, gave its occupant all the unpleasant sensations of *mal-de-mer*, which, combined with the jeers of the lookers-on, was a kind of punishment few cared to have more than one experience of.

The Duke of York, when finding fault with a colonel about the number of court-martials in his corps, was told by this officer that the men of the —th were an exceptionally bad lot.

"That's all stuff," was his Royal Highness's reply, 'one thousand English soldiers are the same as any other thousand of them. The commanding officers are not alike, though, and it is that which makes all the difference."

Major-General A. Macdonald will succeed Lieutenant-General Hope in the command of the North British District in a few days. Major-General Macdonald has held many staff appointments, and has been aide-de-camp to H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge.

It has been decided to remove the Torpedo School from Chatham to Portsmouth, and in consequence of this decision H.M.S. *Hood*, on board which the officers and men of the Royal Engineers go through a course of instruction in torpedo drill, will proceed from the former to the latter station about the 31st inst.

That most unfortunate of all Her Majesty's ironclads, the *Iron Duke*, will shortly arrive home from China. H.M.S. *Swiftsure* succeeds this vessel as flagship on the China station.

Major Burnaby has given notice that he will appear at an early day in the character of "the provincial innkeepers' defender." He will ask Parliament to increase the daily allowance made to licensed victuallers for soldiers billeted upon them by one-third; that is, from 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 6d.

But country innkeepers do not complain—the fact being they are always only too glad to have soldiers billeted on them, as these attract custom, the neighbours keeping dropping in all day, and they come in shoals at night to see and chat with the military men, especially if any of them have been on foreign service.

Not that it will make much difference to the estimates, seeing that so few troops now go by march route. If Major Burnaby was to propose that all changes of quarters should be done by road, as of old, he would not only gain the gratitude of innkeepers in the provinces, but the thanks of the soldiers, to whom being "on the march" was a pleasant change. Officers, however, look at it from an opposite point of view.

Churches and Churchmen.

It is not good to erect chapels—or, indeed, buildings of any kind—on foundations through which there runs a seam of coal. They did this at Darlaston, and on Saturday a fire was found to be raging under the Primitive Methodist Chapel. It appears that under the foundation of the chapel there is a seam of coal nine feet thick, which became ignited by the heat from the apparatus used for warming the chapel. The damage done to the building is very great.

Could the congregation not make some economical use of the seam for warming purposes, and thus save the expense of artificial apparatus?

We regret to hear that the Rev. Dr. Cumming, so long known in connection with the National Church of Scotland in Crown-court, has been placed under the charge of a private asylum at Chelsea.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury starts to-day for the Continent, where he will remain probably for some weeks.

At the House of Commons to-day the Scotch members will assemble for the purpose of presenting an address to Mr. Duncan M'Laren, lately and for many years' representative of Edinburgh.

Gossip of Town.

LORD BEACONSFIELD'S ILLNESS.

"Ah, Monty," said Lord Beaconsfield the other day, "every year after seventy is a gift from the gods!"

And now they are telegraphing to Lord Rowton to come back as quickly as he can that he may see the Premier alive once more.

This searching treacherous east wind is answerable—if anything is "answerable"—for the great Earl's illness, and it may be too that Lord Beaconsfield did not always protect so carefully as he might have done that health which England holds so precious to-day.

Again and again last night it was rumoured that he was dead, and Parliament, for nearly two hours of its sitting momentarily expected the news that England's noblest statesman was no more.

At eleven o'clock last night we received the following:—"Lord Beaconsfield's health during the evening has been undisturbed by spasm. His Lordship is suffering less, and he has been able to take nourishment.'

At half-past one o'clock this morning it was telegraphed to us that the noble earl had slept slightly, and that if anything there was a little improvement in his condition since the last bulletin was issued.

The seat of real danger is the throat, which is much inflamed. His Lordship suffers severely from defective respiration arising from phlegm. During the paroxysms of coughing intense pain was felt, complete exhaustion following, but by carefully administering restoratives his Lordship's strength was revived.

Her Majesty has at intervals sent special messengers from Buckingham Palace to the ex-Premier's house to convey back to her the latest information, a copy of each bulletin issued being at once forwarded to the Queen.

Mr. Gladstone called personally to inquire after the noble Earl's condition, the Prime Minister walking from Downing-street to the ex-Premier's residence, where the right hon. gentleman had a brief interview with Viscount Barrington, who, in Lord Rowton's absence in Algiers, is in attendance to relieve the anxiety of the friends of Lord Beaconsfield.

Throughout the day calls were made in Curzon-street by members of the Royal Family now in London, as well as by an immense number of distinguished visitors.

At half-past nine this morning the patient was pronounced rather better, and in less pain.

Last night the members of the joint Midland and North-Eastern Circuits entertained Mr. Justice Cave at dinner, in the Inner Temple Hall (the use of which was specially granted for the occasion), in order to celebrate his recent elevation to the Bench. The chair was occupied by Mr. Alfred Wills, Q.C.

And such a muster of silks has not been seen round a dinner-table for many a day.

The Lord Chancellor has consented to preside at the annual meeting of the Barristers' Benevolent Association, which will be held in the Middle Temple Hall this evening at 4.30 p.m.

Lord Derby and Lord Sherbrooke were walking together down Regent-street. Lord Derby was leading the ex-Liberal Minister by the arm; but somehow I could not help thinking that Lord Sherbrooke had the ex-Conservative Minister in tow.

Professor Huxley, as Fishery Inspector, has been inquiring into the causes of the Rebecca disturbances in the neighbourhood of the Wye. Our readers may remember that these disagreeable rioters took umbrage at the restrictions put upon their spearing salmon in the river. It was a fishy excuse at best.

As we are now close on the brink of the season, the vestries have arranged for their usual ripping up of the streets. They have not many men at work, but the selection of that little slice of Piccadilly, between Grosvenor-place and Hamilton-place, deserves the highest praise.

It was intended to commence with the end near St. James's-street; but on its being pointed out that the Academy would open about the 1st of May, the vestries in the kindest way abandoned that idea, and the ripping up of Eastern Piccadilly has been deferred till the morning of the private view. Similar arrangements have been made for Bond-street during the first fortnight of the Grosvenor. The vestries have also before them a scheme for impeding the traffic round the opera houses so soon as Messrs. Gye and Mapleson have commenced to raise their curtains in the presence of their subscribers.

But in this they have met with a difficulty. To render the operation properly effective the works should be in full swing from seven in the evening till midnight, and the workmen object to these hours. It is expected that some compromise will be made, and that the works will go on between eight and nine, and be resumed at eleven till midnight.

Whether it was worth half a million to get rid of Northumberland House is a point on which opinions still differ. Those who think it was, base their opinion chiefly on the gain effected in obtaining a clear vista down Northumberland-avenue to the Embankment. The neighbourhood certainly has profited in spaciousness, range of view, and airiness. If, however, this fiendish plot should be perpetrated of planting a huge "central railway station for London" plump at the end of the Avenue, on the Embankment, the best equivalent of the half-million will have been sacrificed.

Can it possibly be that the Co-operative Supply Associations are so wretchedly mismanaged that several among them are already giving signs of unmistakably coming to grief? A rumour as to one of them in particular absolutely defies belief, or, as they say in Ireland, bangs Banagher. The statement in regard to it is actually this: that out of a capital of £43,000 as much of it has been muddled away as £30,000, not only through reckless and unchecked expenditure, but through defalcations. To cap the climax of bungling and blundering in this instance, the unhappy association referred to has had to score off as bad debts as much as £3,000 sterling.

But how did bad debts occur in a business which boasts that it is based on the principle of ready-money?

Richmond will soon be able to enjoy the advantage of her new public library, which is now completed, and will be opened in May. The building has cost upwards of £2,300, and is the work of Mr. Frederick S. Brunton.

Down Whitechapel way, if the streets are not paved

with gold, as dreaming schoolboys imagined in the days of Whittington, there are hidden away in certain dingy tenements in Houndsditch diamonds of the first water. At Raphael's Coffee House, situated there in Orange-street, they may be sought and purchased.

On Sunday mornings, in a narrow room, long tables are heaped up every week with jewels, set and unset, the former in the shape of every kind of trinket. Jew vendors and Christian purchasers there meet many a time and oft on the first day of the seven to negotiate the transfer from one to another of these delicious brilliants. The Jews arrive, carrying their precious gems in leather valises bulbous with their costly contents.

What is noteworthy, too, is an odd way the diamond merchants from Amsterdam have of bringing with them in their breast pockets their glittering spoil in morocco cases loosely wrapped up like so many sandwiches in whitey-brown paper.

Exchanges of £5,000 worth of diamonds frequently take place in a little room—or rather closet—contiguous to the chief apartment. All is accomplished quietly in this way between eleven and two o'clock every Sunday.

Notwithstanding that the game season has been closed for some time for the United Kingdom, Farringdon-street and Leadenhall seem as well stocked as ever, and it is still possible to buy blackcocks, grey hens, and ptarmigan. Teal, widgeon, plover, quails, and other birds within the scope of the Wild Birds' Protection Act of last September, are also still plentiful on the stall, the statutory prohibition notwithstanding.

It is explained that this is because the Act permits of the sale of these birds at any time, if it can be shown that they were killed or caught in any country abroad where their capture is legal.

A distinguished surgeon has recently passed away who will be greatly missed by his brother professionals. This was Mr. Francis Godrich, of West Brompton. The latest justification of his repute was evidenced by his resolute hostility to the small-pox hospital in his immediate neighbourhood.

At the Arts Club.

Certain theatrical critics are so radical in their distaste for Madame Modjeska's foreign accent as to declare her disqualified for all Shakespearian characters. This is altogether too sweeping. Let them look at *Henry V.*, Act. III., Scene iv., and Act V., Scene ii. The part of Katharine is not long, to be sure, but who shall say it is not effective in its small way? Moreover, her first speech on her second appearance is precisely calculated to disarm the sternest censors. Nevertheless, Madame Modjeska will probably not enact the Princess Katharine.

Mr. Burton has put his last acquisition—the beautiful "*Vierge aux rochers*"—on a screen to itself in the large gallery No. XIV. This arrangement has its advantages. People look for the new picture, and find it easily. Then there are seats in front of it, so that they naturally rest and admire it. It is wonderful how much that comfortable couch in the little room in the Dresden Gallery contributes to the glorification of the Sistine Madonna.

On the other hand, the new Lionardo suffers from being screened. It is, of course, glazed; and as the light strikes it from above, the sheet of plate-glass that covers the dark canvas is a mirror to reflect the floor, so that the British public, who take their seats opposite, may admire either the Virgin or each other. I hear its present site is only temporary, and that wall space will be found for it in a short time.

We are really quite tired of reading in every paper we open that Mr. Walter Goodman has painted a portrait of Prince Leopold, and that everybody pronounces it very good.

Now, tell the truth, Mr. Goodman. How much of that portrait was painted by H.R.H. the Princess Louise?

At the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, a really charming concert was given by the pupils on Saturday. The voice of the contralto, Miss Maggie Reece, a pretty and interesting girl, was a thing to be remembered. Her rendering of the air, "O Lord, thou hast searched me out," in Bennett's *Woman of Samaria*, was exquisite.

Singing from music dictated to the pupils, and pricked off at once on stiff paper, was not only most ingenious and interesting, but almost marvellous. It is to be hoped they will give another concert, and have a better house.

Mr. Millais, I grieve to learn, has been advised by his physicians to start upon a long sea-voyage in the hope of its restoring him to something like health. His present intention is to go to the Antipodes, not returning home until December from New Zealand and Australia.

A sensational story of a pronounced character, having particular reference to the lunatic asylums of England, has been prepared by the Hon. Lewis Wingfield, for simultaneous publication in several of the principal country newspapers. The theme selected by the author, it should be said, is not new, having been already treated with powerful effect by Charles Reade, in his famous romance of a bank bill, entitled "Very Hard Cash." The forthcoming tale is wittily named, with reference, of course, to the lunatic asylum which is the principal scene of the narrative, "The Haven of Unrest."

The following story of Nollekens, the sculptor, which may be as old as the century, is going the round of the Arts Club as new. The Duke of York, thinking to compliment the sculptor, as he was sitting to him one day, said, "Mr. Nollekens, my brother, the Prince Regent, knows you very well."

"Knows me!" says Nollekens. "Don't you believe it; it's only a bit of his brag!"

"The Countess Carolyi, attended by several members of the Austrian Embassy and by Colonel Colville, has visited several of the studios, and, says a daring correspondent, looked prettier than the prettiest portraits on the easels.

Excepting the Countess Carolyi and Miss Williams (whom Mr. Watts has painted), I did not see many beauties at the studios on Sunday and Monday, though one artist assured me that he had had fifty lovely women in his room at one time."

One of the latest adaptations of an improvement to the piano is that which has just been introduced by M. Gastaldour, of Vicanza. At the performer's pleasure, the notes can be prolonged, the pianist thereby having a completer mastery than ever over the *sostenuto*. This invention, which marks a new era in the history of the pianoforte, has already won for itself the highest commendation of musicians as eminent as Liszt and Rubenstein.

Mr. F. J. Williamson has, I hear, been commissioned by the Wright Memorial Committee to execute for the Birmingham Corporation a statue in white Sicilian marble of the late Mr. J. S. Wright, as well as a marble bust of Mr. Samuel Timmins, J.P. The last-mentioned is to be placed in the Free Library, and the statue on one of the chief sites in the streets of Birmingham.

"Did you hear the last anecdote about my brother Johnny and the Prince of Wales?" "No, dear boy," was the thoughtless answer, and three-quarters of an hour after Frank was to be seen still buttonholing his victim.

Mr. Louis Fagan, the author of "The Life of Sir Anthony Panizzi," and the editor of his correspondence, has received from the King of Italy, through General Menabrea, the Cross of the Iron Crown of Lombardy. This distinction has been conferred upon him in recognition of the service he has rendered to the memory of so many noble Italians who gave themselves up to the cause of national unity and independence, as shown especially in their correspondence with Panizzi.

Mr. Charles Bernard says he will not take the juvenile *Cloches de Corneville* company to Ireland, there being no theatre at their disposal in Dublin. Ireland is more like Niobe than ever at the news.

Stimson and Dacroy's burlesque company, of which I hear good accounts, is at the Dublin Gaiety this week, and will open at the Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, on Monday. They are playing Fred Broughton's *Light and Shade*, and a burlesque. Miss Nelly Bouverie—bless her bright face!—is the trump card of the burlesque.

"Lal" Brough is starring to immense houses at Birmingham. I am sorry to hear it, for it will keep him away from London, and London has not such a plethora of good actors that London can spare him.

Among the forthcoming books from the press of Tinsley Brothers are "Visited on the Children," by Theo. Gift; "Birds of a Feather," by Miss Annie Thomas, and a volume entitled "Six Months in Mecca," by a Christian Englishman who turned Mohammedan in order to get there.

Nobody who had to work a farm ever saw the poetry of farm life. Such is the verdict of a critic of Will Carleton's ballads, and he is right.

It is not in farm work. Digging would be all very well, if you had a hinge in your back—and then there might be poetry in the occupation. But as backs are made now, it does not do. Nor does milking dirty cows in cold weather conduce to a free flow of numbers.

The farmer sees the sparrows among his barley, but not the poetry about their performance that the poet looking over the hedge does.

"Old Unreliable" is the very irreverent title by which *The Republic* speaks of Mr. Dion Boucicault. Our contemporary goes on: "Boucicault now claims to have 'found' Henry Irving, the English tragedian. He also claims to have written *London Assurance*. But Irving was first brought prominently before the public by Manager Bateman at the Lyceum Theatre, in the *Bells*, about 1872, and John Brougham says that he wrote *London Assurance* while a young man in Boucicault's company in London." What does the talented author of *Arrah-na-Pogue* say to this?

A general Conference of Architects will meet in London on May 6, and will last for six days. The time will be pretty equally divided between addresses, papers, and discussions, tempered by dinners, *conversaziones*, and sight-seeing.

A little pamphlet of fifteen pages, written by "M. A., Oxon," discusses, in a frank, candid, and intelligent manner, "The State of the Law of England as it Affects Public Mediums." Now that the Fletcher case is bringing prominently again under the consideration of the public the subject of spiritualism, it seems only fair that an argument like the one there set forth should be taken into account dispassionately.

Given a medium, M.A. fairly states how it is that the law, by various statutes, endeavours to get at him. Supposing, for example, he accepts any payment by way of remuneration for his time and skill, he is indictable at once for obtaining money under false pretences. He may in that case be indicted at Assizes, at the Criminal Court, or at Quarter Sessions. As the matter stands, however, the Act referred to is capable of being neither cheaply nor easily applied. To secure the conviction of the accused the prosecutor must prove that the medium made some false pretence or representation. He must yet further prove that the claims thus advanced were consciously invalid.

Again, on the trial of an indictable offence like that imputed to the medium, the latter is liable to be convicted of no more than an attempt to defraud, under which Act a punishment may be inflicted of five years' penal servitude.

Another statute altogether may be applied to the medium whose conviction under it may subject him to three months' imprisonment with hard labour, the law regarding him as a rogue and vagabond. "Three months!" exclaims M. A. "Why, a free and enlightened Briton may pound his wife into a jelly, or kick her till her own mother would not know her disfigured form, for a far more trifling penalty."

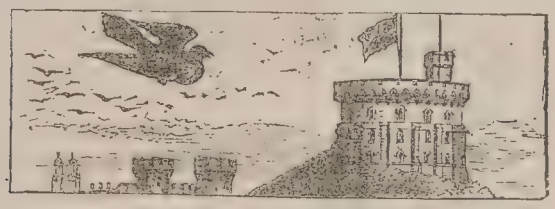
Yet another instrument for inflicting punishment upon the spiritualist is the 9th of George II., cap. 5, which subjects any one pretending to exercise any kind of witchcraft, sorcery, enchantments, or conjuration, to the penalty of a year's imprisonment.

The application of rigorous measures, such as these, to dreamers of dreams like the so-called Spiritualists, marks a disproportion between the means and the end not a jot less extravagant, and even ridiculous, than the old proverbial device of going to market to buy a hatchet to break eggs.

On Monday night Mr. Gladstone was unanimously elected President of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution in the place of the late Mr. Carlyle.

We can safely predict a large measure of success for Mr. Alan Coles' Cantor Lectures on "Lace" at South Kensington. The first is set down for April 4, and will deal with the earlier forms of Venetian, Flemish, Spanish, and French lace. The second lecture will treat principally of needlework and needle point lace. The third will be devoted to fringes, twisted thread work, and pillow lace. The concluding lecture will have for its subject modern lace, machine and hand-made, &c. The first two lectures will be delivered before Easter and the second two after Easter. The course will be illustrated by specimens of lace, and by enlarged photographs, to be exhibited by the oxy-hydrogen light.

A portrait of Madame Albani, a fancy portrait of Miss Munro, and portraits of Mr. F. Campbell of Craigie, and Colonel the Hon. W. N. A. Fielding, will be contributed to the Royal Academy by Mrs. Campbell Munro.



Courts and Courtiers.

At the Drawing Room held yesterday the list of presentations to Her Majesty was not numerous though brilliant, while the attendance included, besides their Royal Highnesses, all the diplomatic circle, but comparatively few of the aristocracy.

The Queen wore a dress and train of black silk trimmed with crape and feathers, and a long black tulle veil surmounted by a diadem of jet. Her Majesty also wore jet ornaments, the ribbon and star of the Order of the Garter, the Orders of Victoria and Albert, the Crown of India, Louise of Prussia, St. Catherine of Russia, the Spanish and Portuguese Orders, and the Saxe-Coburg and Gotha Family Order.

Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice wore a dress and train of black satin trimmed with jet embroidery and lace. Headdress, black feathers, veil, and coronet of jet. Her Royal Highness also wore a necklace, brooch, and earrings of jet, with the Orders of Victoria and Albert, the Crown of India, and the Saxe-Coburg and Gotha Family Order.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught wore a black satin petticoat trimmed with jet, and a train of brocaded velvet with trimmings to match. Headdress, a tiara of jet, black plumes, and black veil. Ornaments, jet. Orders—Victoria and Albert, the Imperial Order of India, the Order of Louise of Prussia, the Saxe-Coburg and Gotha Family Order, and the medal commemorative of the Emperor and Empress of Germany's Golden Wedding.

Her Majesty's dinner party yesterday included among the guests the Turkish, Italian, Austrian, and French Ambassadors.

Princess Beatrice, attended by her suite, went to see *The Money Spinner* at the St. James's Theatre on Monday night.

Under the presidency of the Duke of Connaught, a public dinner is given to-morrow night in aid of Princess Mary's village homes.

H.R.H. the Duchess of Connaught will open a bazaar in the large hall at the Cannon-street Hotel, on May 3, in aid of the funds of the Aldershot Soldiers' Home, and the Chatham and Seamen's Institution.

H.R.H. Prince Leopold has graciously consented to lay the foundation-stone of the City and Guilds of London Technical College, Finsbury.

His Grace the Duke of Rutland is so far recovered as to be able to leave town for Belvoir Castle. Lady Elizabeth Drummond, eldest sister of his Grace, has, until lately, been confined to her own apartments at Belvoir Castle by severe indisposition.

Among the departures from Ireland yesterday was the Earl of Listowel, and among the arrivals in the distressful country Sir R. Blosse, the victim-hero of Balla.

Lord Colin Campbell, M.P. for Ayrshire, and one of the sons of the Duke of Argyle, arrived at Plymouth yesterday morning on board the *Kinfans Castle*, on his return from an unsuccessful excursion to South Africa in quest of health. It is very much to his credit that when he learnt, immediately upon landing, of the ignominious peace patched up with the Boers in the Transvaal, he, the younger son of the Lord Privy Seal, manifested the greatest amazement.

The Earl of Aberdeen has been appointed Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Sir D. Brooke Robertson, C.B., K.C.M.G., formerly Her Majesty's Consul-General at Shanghai, died on Sunday last at his residence in Arlington-street, Piccadilly, aged 71. He had been for 40 years a civil servant of the Crown, and was called to the bar at Lincoln's-inn in 1840.

Earl and Countess Ranfurly have left Thomas's Hotel for Ireland.

Marriages are arranged between the Earl of Desart and Miss Bischoffsheim, and between Mr. Louis Ames, late 2nd Life Guards, of Linden, Morpeth, and Miss Meta Hamilton, youngest daughter of the Hon. Mrs. Hamilton.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff, M.P., has gone from London to Torquay.

It is reported that the Earl of Caithness died at an hotel in New York on Monday.

The flag of the Thames Conservancy Board has been half-masted at all the steam-boat piers on the river since the announcement of Sir Charles Reed's death, and the steam-launches and other vessels of the Board have also had their ensigns and Board flags flying at half-mast. The late Sir Charles Reed was one of the conservators of the River Thames, representing, amongst others, the Corporation of the City of London on the Conservancy Board.

In the City.

What would clergymen do without sinners? What are Radicals when there are no abuses? *Vix retinet lachrymas quia nil lachrymabile cernit* describes the sad condition of the would-be City revolutionist. A City Company is, of course, bloated and abominable; but a City Company which rouses itself to a new career of national usefulness is worse. It is a thief. It is robbing the poor reformer of his proper prey.

And this is what many of the great City guilds are doing with shameless energy and intelligence. The Goldsmiths' Company, for instance, have issued the programme of their "Tenth Competition" to stimulate emulation among designers and workmen in the channel of their ancient craft. There are twenty-five prizes (of the total value of £500) ranging from £50, for a "plaster model of a man and horse," to prizes of £10 for "second-best" original *designs* for tankards and so forth, or for superior *workmanship* in carrying existing designs into execution.

Everybody in Throgmorton-street thought Emmas were certain to have a good rise on Monday. Emmas had a heavy fall, and everybody in Throgmorton-street was sold. A good report of the mine was received by post, and, at the same time, a cablegram to say that there was a l gal hitch with the "Cincinnati Tunnel Company." That's what sent them down.

They were carried over yesterday at £3½, after having been sold a few days ago at £4. What a clever man it is!

By the way, can any of our intelligent readers inform us whether or not Baron Grant was connected directly or indirectly with the following companies:—La Plata, "East Wheal Rose," "Zoedone," and a certain undertaking for chopping up firewood? Perhaps the Baron himself might oblige with a reply.

It is whispered in the City that a certain Californian Syndicate has heen formed to watch over Pacific Slope interests in London. Mr. D. O. Mills, President of the Bank of California, is one of the principal members, and Mr. J. J. Corregan is on his way here. The British public have lost a good deal of money through investing in Californian undertakings during the past ten years, but imagine Californian "securities" being placed on the English market by a Californian Syndicate!

Business on the Stock Exchange is dull just at present. Why does not the Committee turn their attention to this matter?

"Hoover Hill" is under a cloud for the moment—something wrong with title, so say the "Bears."

"East Wheal Rose" may have some good ore, if it could be got at. We are afraid to express our opinion about the concern as a mine, but if there was only a sufficient demand in the neighbourhood we are certain it would be a success as "waterworks."

On the Stock Exchange yesterday continuation rates were lighter than has been known for some months.

The Great Western of Canada traffic receipts published yesterday show an increase of £800 for the week ending March 26th. At the present time a great deal of public attention is attached to this Company, in consequence of the fusion scheme existing between it and the Grand Trunk Railway. That an amalgamation would be beneficial to both companies cannot be doubted, and from the tenor of Sir H. Tyler's pamphlet in connection with it we understand that every effort will be made to effect a reconciliation of the terms, the hitch being only of very minor importance.

Law and Police.

The result of "Chamberlaine *v.* Barnwell" is a surprise to all parties.

It is a surprise to the defendant, because when he might have escaped with a verdict of £50 given against him at the last trial he moved for a new trial, and now has to pay £3,000.

It is a surprise to the plaintiff, because when his opponent obtained the new trial from the Divisional Court he appealed to the Court of Appeal, thus showing he was content with his £50.

It is a surprise to Sir Henry James, because where he won a verdict for £50, Mr. Charles Russell has obtained £3,000.

It is a pleasant surprise to the public, who were afraid they were going to have several more days of unsavoury details.

The City and Its ex-Remembrancer.—The action brought by Mr. C. H. Robarts against the Corporation of the City ought to open our eyes. Mr. Robarts maintains that his office as Remembrancer is a freehold, and that the Court of Common Council has no legal right to deprive him or to refuse to pay him. This is the main issue, the trial of which will not at present take place, but which, as a matter of fact, will be virtually raised on the motion for an injunction; and it may be stated in this connection that the precedents upon which the Corporation rely are of comparatively modern date.

This is the question of fact upon which the decision of the Master of the Rolls will be asked, but it is not unlikely that some startling revelations will sooner or later be made. Mr. Robarts's friends say that he found his department in a state of discreditable chaos, and that his offence is that he tried to introduce decency and order. It is true that his temper is not angelic, but it is equally true that he never soiled his hands. His fault was that he moved too fast and hit too hard. His ways were not the ways of the Corporation of the City of London, and that illustrious body kicked him out. Men say that signs of remorse are not invisible, and that the civic fathers never bargained for a summons to appear before Sir George Jessel.

The office of Remembrancer is one of great delicacy and deep mystery, and the details of its operations are not such as the public are supposed to have a right to understand. The ostensible function of this strange official is to watch all Parliamentary action which in any way affects the City, and to divert it into a friendly and favourable current. To promote the effectual discharge of these duties, a certain amount is placed at his disposal, and few questions are asked as to its expenditure. The base insinuation in the case of Mr. Robarts is that not only did he not bribe wisely, but that he did not even bribe at all! We shall see what we shall see.

Meanwhile, Mr. Chitty, Q.C., and sixteen other counsel are pitted against the Corporation, for which Mr. Webster, Q.C., has been retained. The affidavits on each side are of tremendous length, and the case will occupy several days. Appropriately enough, all the counsel for Mr. Robarts are Oxford men; for the Remembrancer that was, and perhaps is, retains his fellowship at All Souls', where he had a very distinguished University career.

The Corporation have suspended a fresh election until the injunction has been granted or refused. A small party were for setting the Law Courts and everybody else at defiance, and pitch-forking Sir Thomas Nelson into the problematical vacancy. But wiser counsels prevailed. Apart from the question whether the office ought to be retained, it is hard to see wherein Sir Thomas Nelson's qualifications for it lie. He is admittedly an excellent occupant of his present office, and it seems the height of folly to remove him to a position where gifts of a very peculiar kind are necessary. The best man in the field is, perhaps, Mr. Marwood Tucker; but it will be surprising if he is willing to accept a position like that of Remembrancer of the City of London. But for £1,500 a-year, my masters, and the run of the House of Commons, and six months' holiday *per annum*—which of us wouldn't pocket our pride, and all the rest of it, and turn a Remembrancer, if we got the chance?

Mr. Attorney-General has announced to Mr. John Frederick May and to Mr. William Mair, solicitors of Macclesfield, and agents respectively of the Liberals and Conservatives of that borough, that prosecutions will be forthwith commenced against them in consequence of the evidence (in regard to the last general election) which was brought to light against them before the Royal Commissioners. This intimation has naturally caused some excitement at Macclesfield.

Mr. May has long been one of the town councillors of the municipality, while Mr. Mair is Registrar of the local

County Court. Some notion may be formed of the wide sympathy felt among his colleagues for Mr. May, when it is added that of the 48 members of the Town Council as many as 38 are implicated; while four Conservative magistrates are scheduled for bribery, and four Liberal magistrates for causing corruption.

The Spiritualist case is not expected to come on till Thursday before Mr. Justice Hawkins. Mr. Poland has returned his brief, and the leading counsel for the prosecution will be Mr. Montagu Williams, with whom will be Mr. Clegg.

It is now rumoured that Mr. Edward E. Kay, Q.C., will succeed to the judgeship vacant by the resignation of Sir Richard Malins.

It is not often that young wives, who are both pretty and sensible, have such a tale to tell as the good-looking young woman, who asked for information, at the Bow-street Police-court yesterday, as to the law on the subject of bigamy. She explained that her husband had deserted her, and she had not heard anything of him for over eight years. She had now an opportunity of getting married again, but before doing so she wished to have the magistrate's opinion as to the legality of such action.

Mr. Vaughan asked under what circumstances her husband had deserted her.

The applicant stated that about eight and a-half years ago her husband had been imprisoned for one month for deserting her, and as soon as he left prison he again disappeared. He was at that time a printer. Applicant had made several inquiries, but had not succeeded in finding out anything about him.

Mr. Vaughan asked if applicant had any reason to suppose he was dead.

She stated that her only reason for supposing that to be the case was the fact of his continued absence.

Mr. Vaughan said in that case before he could advise applicant to marry again some further inquiry ought to be made. Although in law there was a presumption that after seven years' absence, nothing meanwhile being heard of his whereabouts or existence, a man was dead, still that was only a presumption. If applicant married and her first husband should afterwards turn up, she might find herself liable to a charge of bigamy, and in that case the circumstance to be considered would be whether full and searching inquiry had been made as to the death or otherwise of the missing man. He thought applicant should seek out any relatives her husband had living and find if they knew anything about him. The man having been a printer, inquiry should also be made at the principal printing-offices. Some advertisement, he thought, ought also to be put into the newspapers.

The applicant, in thanking his worship, intimated that she would act upon his advice.

Among the ornithological rarities which our Arctic visitation of January added to private collections, were "an American red-headed pochard," shot at Tralee, and "a laughing gull" in the neighbourhood of Newmarket.

We should not call laughing gulls rarities in the neighbourhood of the famous racecourse; and as for the American red-headed pochard which had found its way to Tralee, we suspect this is only "a euphuistic periphrasis" for Mr. Redpath.

Cuckoo Notes.

On inquiring at Lord Beaconsfield's residence, in Curzon-street, this morning, our reporter was informed that his lordship had passed a quiet night, and is a little better. At 10.37 his medical attendants were with him, and expressed themselves favourably as to his condition. A steady progress towards convalescence is anticipated.

The Editor would remind the public that one of the birds protected by the Act is the Cuckoo.

Contributors, therefore, should keep before them the fact that to "sell" THE CUCKOO between the 1st of March and the 1st of August is punishable at law by a fine of £1 for each such offence.

But the Act does not apply to newsvendors nor subscribers, as these fall within the category of "persons authorised" to contravene it.

An enterprising bootmaker, of Vienna, is said to have hit the taste of ladies of fashion in the Austrian capital by introducing into his boot heels layers of ivory between the lifts. The heel thus made is said to present "a very attractive appearance."

A premium of 10,000 dollars was recently offered by the owner of one of the large circuses in Philadelphia for the handsomest woman, from a physical point of view, for thirty weeks' service as a show piece in a great pageant.

Considering that far more Cheshire cheese is made in Russia than in Cheshire, it is not so strange that the centre of the manufacture of Gruyère should have transferred itself from Switzerland to France. We learn, however, that this trade shows now a tendency to return to its first home. This fact would leave us unmoved.

What urges us to comment is the sagacity of the remedy which the French cheese-merchants have adopted to retain their ebbing custom. Instead of aiming at the cheap by producing the nasty, the cheese-merchants of Pontarlier, convened in general meeting, decided unanimously that "inferior and badly-made cheese shall not in future be accepted as a marketable article at however low a price."

We cannot too anxiously impress upon Irish gentlemen and others who may desire to blow up the Lord Mayor the necessity of using care in the selection of their dynamite. The best is made with "diatomaceous deposits from Randaune, in the department of Pay-de-Dôme, which can absorb from 73 to 78 per cent. of nitro-glycerine." We need hardly say that the merit of dynamite depends "upon the porosity of the frustules of the microscopical diatoms," and we hope that, after this reminder, our Fenian friends will perform any little job they may feel called upon to undertake in a more workmanlike manner.

Agriculturists all over the country know what ravages in the way of routing are done by unringed pigs. Ring the routing pigs by all means, but abstain at least from perforating the extremity of the snout, which is often pierced with a view to render the operation more effectual. A word of warning to farmers upon this subject was published thirty years ago in an agricultural work, the writer of which then denounced the practice as both cruel and inefficacious.

Talking of rings, why is the duty on wedding-rings not taken off? It is cruel, though efficacious.

There is a connection between pigs and wedding-rings,

for our readers may remember how, in the ballad, the pussy cat "married the owl" with the ring from "the little pig's nose," the little pig selling the said ring for a shilling to the improvident bridegroom.

And talking of pigs, the scare about American hog-cholera has now been exploded by an official report, which has lowered the yellow flag and passed on the porkers with a clean bill of health. Eating peach-fed bacon is now, therefore, no rasher than eating the home-grown article.

At half-past four o'clock this afternoon the Lord Chancellor will preside in the Middle Temple Hall at the annual meeting of the Barristers' Benevolent Institution.

Lady Blanche Murphy is dead. After she married without her family's consent, she left the country with her husband, but has always kept up affectionate intercourse with her father, the Earl of Gainsborough, and all the members of her family.

Her marriage brought her face to face with difficulties, which, perhaps, she hardly anticipated. But, like all well-bred women, she was brave.

In spite of her domestic and maternal cares, she plied her pen, especially in American papers, Republican editors having a special fancy for a contributor with a title. Her sudden death will be a source of keen regret in England to a large circle of former friends.

Fires in Theatres.—Within the last hundred years, that is from the year 1781 inclusive, at the very least (for the list is not pretended to be exhaustive) 107 theatres have been destroyed by fire in Europe or the United States. If the destruction had been fairly distributed, this would have been little more than a burnt theatre per annum. But the years *se suivent et ne se ressemblent pas*. In 1867, for instance, no fewer than ten theatres went to charcoal and cinders, and in the following year (1868) no more than five; while in 1872, and again in 1874, not a single one was consumed.

The theatres destroyed in 1867 and 1868 involved a money loss of from £640,000 to £680,000. If all the precautions which Capt. Shaw recommends had been taken in their costliest form, in all these fifteen theatres, the money saving would nevertheless have been more than half a million.

Since, however, more people go to theatres than own them, the loss of life so frequently attending theatrical conflagrations will be generally considered even more serious than the loss of property. Now there are two main dangers to life. An audience may be roasted by the flames or suffocated by the smoke—*that* is the direct action of fire; or a number of them may be crushed, smothered, or trampled to death in the struggle to escape—*that* is the effect of panic. And this second danger is much greater than the first. Indeed, a false alarm of fire may be just as effectual for slaughter, if it produces panic, as the most *bonâ fide* blaze; and even when the fire is genuine, fiercest, and most fatal, it is the panic which supplies it with victims by causing the block which prevents timely exit. Was it not Turenne who said:—*Ce que je crains le plus, c'est la peur?* As regards "fires in theatres" he would have been right to the letter.

Capt. Shaw suggests a number of precautions, all of them probably judicious, most of them obviously so. They are, however, directed mainly towards the prevention of fire, and concern chiefly the safety of property. The question interests us chiefly as one of security to life, and seems to us almost summed up in the one point of precluding panic. For this, two things are requisite—one, that escape from the auditorium should be certain and easy; the other, that the public should know that it is so.

With respect to more than one of the most popular theatres in London, the public *cannot* know this. Indeed any visitor to this or that theatre, which we might mention, if he have taken note of the long and complicated mode of entrance, must know that exit in a case of panic would be difficult and dangerous. Other houses give you the impression that egress would be sure and easy, and if this confidence were general among visitors to those theatres, it would, from that very fact, be justified. Perhaps, in order to diffuse this confidence, it might be wise policy if lessees were to take a hint from the fire-drill of the Royal Navy, and organise a (so to say) *rehearsal* of a fire-panic, in order to prove by actual experiment how short a time would suffice to empty the previously crowded theatre.

After all, tragedies so shocking as this of Nice are not common in theatrical fires. Indeed, we much doubt whether accidents bear as large a proportion to playgoers as to railway travellers, and we know how insignificant this latter proportion is. It is, therefore, in no feeling of panic inspired by the late catastrophe, and certainly in no grudge against the owners of theatrical property, that we comment on the strange anomaly that, while railway companies are liable to actions for compensation to sufferers by any fault or neglect of the companies or their servants, the proprietors and lessees of theatres should be exempted from all such stimulus to vigilance and precaution.

Mr. Justice Fry, on taking his seat yesterday morning in the Chancery division of the High Court of Justice, announced, for the information of the Bar, that after Easter he would move into the Court recently occupied by Vice-Chancellor Malins. With the exception of the Court of Appeal, this is the most commodious Court in Lincoln's Inn-fields.

Mr. and Mrs. Hwffa Williams, who were married last week, are now in the west of England; thence they will go to Craig-y-Don, the residence of Colonel Owen Williams, brother of the bridegroom; and the conclusion of the honeymoon is to be spent in Paris. I understand that Mr. Williams is now quite well again, having completely recovered from the illness which for a few days delayed his marriage.

Mr. Gorst has undertaken to move a resolution condemnatory of the Government policy in the Transvaal on the first available opportunity. It is understood that in this he is supported not only by the Conservatives in the House, but by a considerable section of Liberals.

A woman was stabbed last night by a Frenchman outside the Criterion. She was picked up out of the crowd and conveyed by a couple of policemen in a cab to the hospital. The Frenchman disappeared, but he is known by a companion of the unfortunate woman, and will be arrested.

Her Majesty's Government have resolved to prosecute the infamous *Freiheit* for its articles exulting in the Czar's murder.

This journal, it may be as well to explain, is an organ of German Socialism printed and published in London. Its number issued immediately after the assassination of the Czar appeared with a blood-red border round its first page, and commemorated in an article of a singularly atrocious and infamous character the crime of March the 13th.

The Day's Amusements.

The Prince of Wales was yesterday re-elected Commodore of the Royal Thames Yacht Club. The cutter matches of the Club are fixed for the 23rd of May, while the schooner and yawl races take place on June 8th, and the Channel match on June 22nd.

The Oxford Crew are said to have done their row over the course yesterday in 19m. 55sec. It must, however, be borne in mind that they had a good tide and wind in their favour, whereas when the Light Blues "took their turn" both these were adverse to good times being done.

I learn on good authority that the University athletic clubs have recently entered into an agreement with Mr. J. G. Chambers, by which the Lillie Bridge Grounds at West Brompton have been secured by the former for the Inter-'Varsity sports for a further term of five years.

Why is pigeon-shooting legal? This is not a conundrum, though almost as difficult to be answered. The shooting of trapped birds cannot be called sport, as the essential point in sport is that the object should be wild. Skill, it is true, is necessary: but so it is in many things that are illegal—*e.g.*, picking pockets, and it is not the skill, but the gambling, that makes pigeon-shooting popular. There was something to be said in favour of cock-fighting. It improved the breed, and the cocks, no doubt, liked it; but from the moment a pigeon is caught to the moment it is shot or wounded, it must unmitigatingly suffer. Surely the S.P.C.A. might employ its energies, &c., profitably, on something less trivial than many of its prosecutions.

Query? Would pigeon-shooting be allowed by law, if it were not the *fashion*, and is that a sufficiently good reason for *everything?*

Dr. Carver and Mr. Scott finding that shooting at glass balls pays, have made all arrangements for a shivering tour. Brighton will have the benefit of this monotonous performance for some days.

It is strange, but, nevertheless, true, that as soon as a new and paying sport or profession is started that a hot competition sets in. Some years ago, a one-legged dancer appeared at a London theatre, and for a month or two could command almost any salary for his services. But when it was discovered how well one-legged dancing was supported, scores of single-lower-limbed men sprang into existence, each and all ready to hop about on the stage nightly, for a fiftieth part of the remuneration the original hopper had been paid.

It was the same with the wobblers and other long-distance walkers, and will be the same with the glass-ball shiverers. Like dogs, they have their day, each separately. It is a pity that they cannot all have them together, and have done with them.

Every-day sport and the almighty dollar seem to get more closely entwined, for whether it is the squire who sells his game to the poulterer; the gentleman (?) who runs his horses for money not for honour; the sprinter who wins or loses a race according as the betting goes; or the owners of race courses who make all their arrangements with a view of a "big gate," filthy lucre is the chief person in it.

Hence we find owners of horses, after a race, being obliged to retire from public view with all the speed and secrecy of a burglar who had secured a good booty, and hence it is that gentleman riders have to use all their strength to prevent the animals they are *across* from coming in first.

It is a *bad* world, my masters, and apparently not on the mend.

On account of the Croydon Races, there was really no reliable betting in London yesterday.

The Duke of Hamilton has now first claim on the jockey, J. Martin, jun.

Californian Law.—There is an elder Kalloch, who is a Baptist minister and an ambitious politician of the "Pacific Slope." One of his bitterest opponents, the journalist De Young, happened to discover that this Kalloch had been charged with adultery twenty-five years ago, in Boston, and expelled from his pulpit in that city,—circumstances which were duly set before the community of California, with the view of discrediting his claims to the position of mayor of San Francisco, for which he was a candidate two years since.

Whereupon the aspiring clergyman, in a stump speech, accused Mr. De Young's aged mother of divers and sundry enormities, the nature of which need not be specified.

De Young retaliated with a revolver, in a manner and with results tending to disqualify his enemy from office-holding far more effectively than any number of scandalous revelations could do. But the victim pulled through, to the general amazement, and entered upon the duties of his office, better ballasted with pistol balls than any American functionary on record.

In course of time, Kalloch the younger, a son of the perforated mayor, and himself an ordained light of the Church, steps in one afternoon to Mr. De Young's office and returns that gentleman's compliment in kind, lodging a succession of bullets in various parts of his frame, some of them vital. De Young died, Kalloch was tried, and now we hear he is pronounced "Not Guilty." It will be interesting to watch and see in what light the act was regarded as one of "self-defence." Unless it was argued that the Kalloch family was in permanent peril of extirpation so long as De Young lived, it is difficult to conceive how the mere instinct of self-protection could constrain this militant priest to arm himself, intrude into the sanctum of his foe, and shoot him to death before he could ever know who was his assailant.

But the ways of Californian juries are passing strange. They never were anything else. In the early days of emigration thither, it is recorded that a critical—perhaps hypercritical—miner, fresh from the diggings, once signified his dissatisfaction with the eccentric elocution and fantastic gestures of a tragic actor by shooting him from a private box. Being interrogated in Court as to the reason for his act, he remarked that he "hated to see a man make a d——d fool of himself." The jury having been present at the abruptly-interrupted performance, agreed, to a man, that the provocation was sufficient, and the fastidious avenger of dramatic improprieties went free.

The Earl of Clonmel, Lord Langford, Lady Pelly, and the Hon. George Tackett have arrived at Kingstown from England, and the Hon. E. Dwyer Gray, M.P., has left Kingstown for town.

CHARLES HAMPTON'S WHOLESALE PIANOFORTE CLUB,

ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED TO SUPPLY CIVIL SERVANTS ON CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES WITH

FIRST-CLASS PIANOS ONLY,

at a *boná fide* REDUCTION of 25 per cent. off Cash Prices, by MONTHLY PAYMENTS of One Guinea. Ballot Monthly, or Pianos may be had at once on payment of Five Guineas in advance, but this does not mean five guineas in addition.

PROSPECTUS AND "ANSWERS TO QUERIES" FREE.

74, CHARLOTTE-STREET, FITZROY-SQUARE, W.

LOCAL SECRETARIES REQUIRED.

ESTABLISHED 1851.

THE

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC BAROMETER.

(ADMIRAL FITZROY'S SYSTEM.)

This Instrument differs from all others in use by the application of a mechanical arrangement by which separate and distinct readings are given either for

SUMMER OR WINTER;

Together with Separate Indications of approaching Frost, Fog, Gales, or Calm.

Price, in Solid Oak Frame, from £4 4s.

One Month's Free Trial allowed prior to Payment.

Illustrated Circular, with Price List and over 1,000 Testimonials, sent Post-free on application.

JOSEPH DAVIS & Co., 6, Kennington Park Road, London, S.E.

A MICROSCOPE IN EVERY HOME.

The edification and amusement afforded by the Microscope, divulging what is otherwise unseen, is marvellous. It is scarcely surpassed as a means for home amusement, and therefore should be in every home where comforts are studied. The public generally have not recognised its power to interest and amuse, yet a moment's reflection will convince one of its claims in these respects. The Microscope is as good a means to supply amusement as a piano. As there is a piano in every home, so there should be a Microscope in every home.

Dr. CARPENTER said, in his speech before the Microscopical Society, Nov. 10: "The popularisation of the Microscope, not only as an instrument of research, but as an intellectual amusement, has long engaged my attention."

The SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENT AGENCY, 10, Paternoster-square, E.C., has for its principal object the popularisation of the Microscope, and with this view has produced a high-class instrument at an exceptionally low price called the

INTERNATIONAL MICROSCOPE.

No. 1, with Brass Stand, coarse and fine adjustment, stage with universal motions, eye-piece; dividing object-glass, ¼, ½, and 1 inch, in brass box, when divided forming three different powers; live box, brass hand and stage forceps in a polished mahogany case, with lock and fittings. The money returned if not approved within ten days.

Price £3 3s.

THE SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENT AGENCY,

10, PATERNOSTER SQUARE.

London: Printed by W. SPEAIGHT AND SONS, 97, 98 and 99, Fetter-lane, E.C., and Published for the Proprietor by FREDERICK EVANS, at the Office, 1, York-street, Covent-garden, London, W.C.—Wednesday, March 30, 1881.